

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02128 210930Z
ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OEXC, SCUL, EAID

REF: STATE 48025

SOGUI KONATE, CONFEDERAL SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF SENEGALESE WORKERS (CNTS) ATTENDED DECEMBER AFL-CIO CONVENTION ON AALC GRANT. ALTHOUGH KONATE HAD VISITED U.S. EARLIER IN 1977 AS DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXCHANGE VISITOR, TIMING OF AALC INVITATION WAS IDEAL, SINCE IT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED CNTS EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS WHICH RECONSTITUTED ORGANIZATION'S TOP LEADERSHIP AND ASSIGNED KONATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS. EMBASSY HAS HAD LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT CONTACT WITH KONATE SINCE HIS RETURN, DUE TO HIS EXTENSIVE OVERSEAS TRAVELS AND HIS INVOLVEMENT IN CAMPAIGN LEADING UP TO FEBRUARY 26 NATIONAL ELECTIONS (WHICH RETURNED KONATE TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS MEMBER OF VICTORIOUS SOCIALIST PARTY SLATE). HOWEVER, LOCAL AALC REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE MARTENS CONSIDERS KONATE'S TRIP TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE, FIRST IN CONVEYING RAPID SYMBOLIC US RECOGNITION OF UNION'S REORGANIZATION AND, SECONDLY, IN PRODUCING NOTABLY POSITIVE IMPACT ON KONATE, WHO RETURNED VOICING WARM ENTHUSIASM FOR U.S. AS REPORTED DAKAR 1397 AND A-014, MARTENS BELIEVES THAT NE, CONFIDENT, OUTWARD LOOKING CNTS LEADERSHIP WILL BE PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO EXPANDED,

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MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN U.S. AND CNTS. AALC IS MOVING FORWARD WITH PLANS TO ESTABLISH PAN-AFRICAN LABOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE IN SENEGAL AND IS DISCUSSING OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH CNTS (AS WELL AS HOLDING ANNUAL STAFF CONFERENCE IN DAKAR LATE THIS WEEK). SINCE KONATE WILL BE KEY CONTACT FOR THESE JOINT ACTIVITIES AND FOR GENERAL U.S. CONSULTATIONS WITH

SENEGAL ON LABOR AFFAIRS, THE POSITIVE FIRST-HAND
IMPRESSIONS OF U.S. HE GATHERED DURING TWO 1977 TRIPS
SHOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. WE EXPECT HIM TO BE ONE OF KEY
CONTACTS OF NEW LABOR ATTACHE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT
POST LATER THIS YEAR. FURTHERMORE, KONATE'S
TRAVEL ABROAD AS LABOR REPRESENTATIVE AND MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS WILL PROVIDE FREQUENT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIM TO SHARE HIS FAVORABLE PERCEPTION
OF U.S. WITH COLLEAGUE OUTSIDE SENEGAL.
MCKEE

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